

QCPA701D1

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently amended) A base station controller for facilitating hard handoff comprising:
 - a position database configured to store information corresponding to locations of a plurality of handoff regions; and
 - a selector bank subsystem configured to initiate tracking of the position location of a mobile unit upon ~~detection receipt of an identification~~ of a pilot signal corresponding to a region near predetermined cell covering a handoff region of the plurality of handoff regions, without regard to pilot signal strength, to track the location of the mobile unit using at least partially a GPS system, to determine when the mobile unit enters the handoff region according to the stored information and the location of the mobile unit, and to initiate handoff when the mobile unit enters the handoff region.
3. (Previously presented) The base station controller of claim 2, wherein the selector bank subsystem determines when the mobile unit enters the handoff region by comparing the position location of the mobile unit to the information corresponding to the location of the handoff region.

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4. (Previously presented) The base station controller of claim 2, wherein the selector bank subsystem is further configured to identifying a target cell for receiving the handoff based upon the position location of the mobile unit.

5. (Currently amended) A method of handoff comprising:

~~initiate~~ initiating tracking of the position location of a mobile unit upon detection ~~receipt~~ of an ~~identification~~ of a pilot signal corresponding to a region near predetermined cell covering a handoff region, without regard to pilot signal strength;

tracking the location of the mobile unit using at least partially a GPS system;

determining when the mobile unit enters the handoff region according to the stored information and the location of the mobile unit; and

initiating handoff when the mobile unit has entered the handoff region.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein determining when the mobile unit has entered a handoff region comprises comparing the position location of the mobile unit to information corresponding to the location of the handoff region stored in a position database.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising identifying a target cell for receiving the handoff based upon the position location of the mobile unit.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

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means for initiating tracking of the position location of a mobile unit upon detection receipt of an identification of a pilot signal corresponding to a region near predetermined cell covering a handoff region, without regard to pilot signal strength;

means for tracking the location of the mobile unit using at least partially a GPS system;

means for determining when the mobile unit enters the handoff region according to ~~the~~ stored information and the location of the mobile unit; and

means for initiating handoff when the mobile unit has entered the handoff region.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein means for determining when the mobile unit has entered a handoff region comprises means for comparing the position location of the mobile unit to information corresponding to the location of the handoff region stored in a position database.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising means for identifying a target cell for receiving the handoff based upon the position location of the mobile unit.